

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, after leading our Nation to the brink of financial disaster through their reckless economic policies, our Republican colleagues now have the audacity to launch attacks on the budget proposed by President Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress.

After taking the healthy budget surplus left by the Clinton administration and turning it into the most disastrous deficit in history, Republicans are actually attacking a budget proposal which cuts the deficit by nearly two-thirds by the year 2013, cuts taxes for middle-income families by \$1.5 trillion, creates jobs with investment and reforms in health care, clean energy, education, and reduces nondefense discretionary spending to its lowest level as a percentage of the economy in nearly half a century.

By contrast, the Republicans have put forth a so-called budget which, unbelievably, contains no numbers. None. What their budget does is propose more of the same failed policies that got our country into this deep financial economic crisis.

CLEAN CAR REBATE ACT OF 2009

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in our budget vote this week we need to do three things: We need to get Americans back to work; we need to get them spending money again; and we need to get them to reduce their dependence on oil. Today, I will introduce a bill to address all three of these concerns.

The Clean Car Rebate Act of 2009 will provide a direct consumer rebate check to anyone buying a fuel-efficient vehicle, beginning at \$1,000 for a 2009 car getting 28 miles to the gallon, that is any car, foreign or domestic; and, increasing for more efficient vehicles, topping out at \$2,500 for cars getting 33 miles to a gallon.

The Clean Car Rebate Act is good for jobs, it is good for the American car industry, and it is great for our environment.

OUR BUDGET VOTE

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama assumed the presidency with the United States in a condition worse than any President in the history of our Republic. He came in with problems on every single front, not the least of which was our budget.

I am very pleased to be supporting the President's budget. It includes over \$2 trillion worth of budget savings through ending what at one point cost us more than \$10 billion a month, which was the war in Iraq; we are ending the tax breaks for corporations

that ship their jobs overseas; and, asking those who make more than \$250,000 a year and have had huge tax cuts over the past 8 years to pay just a little bit more.

This budget cuts taxes for 95 percent of American workers, it cuts the deficit in half in over 4 years, and ends an era of irresponsibility and budget gimmicks. So I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to support the President's budget.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1388, EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 296 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 296

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 289 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. MATSUI. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, Mr. DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 296.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 296 provides for consideration of Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1388. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman on the Committee on Education and Labor to concur in Senate amendments to H.R. 1388. The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a vital piece of bipartisan legisla-

tion, legislation that directly affects all of our communities and the lives of millions of Americans, legislation that has seen broad support in both this House and by our colleagues in the Senate. This legislation strengthens our communities, helps educate future generations, teaches our youth to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and fosters a growth of respect and compassion throughout our entire society.

The Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will help launch a new era of American service and volunteerism. The bill answers President Obama's call for Americans of all generations to help get the country through the economic crisis by serving and volunteering in their communities.

The bill has been named after the "lion in the Senate," EDWARD KENNEDY, to recognize his lifetime commitment to national service and to making America a stronger, more collective nation. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act reauthorizes for the first time in 15 years our country's investment in community service and volunteerism. As a cochair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every program of the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, service and volunteerism are the bedrock of our emergency preparedness and national security. In times of strife, the American people have always shown a spirit of service and ingenuity. Investing in service and volunteer programs prepares us to handle any crisis.

We saw firsthand the importance of having trained volunteers in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Following the devastation in the gulf coast, more than 92,000 national service volunteers contributed over 3.5 million hours of work to the recovery effort. They repaired homes, neighborhoods and lives.

The assistance from trained volunteers following the devastating storms represents only one example of the many accomplishments that our service volunteers achieve every single day. Since September of 2005, over 4,070 National Civilian Community Corps, or as we call it NCCC, members have served more than 2.1 million hours in the gulf coast on over 830 relief and recovery projects.

Last year, NCCC members from my hometown of Sacramento served thousands of hours to help fight the fires that devastated the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Californians, and in doing so helped protect thousands more. AmeriCorps NCCC members are disaster-trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States, just as they were in the gulf coast and in California.

Through programs such as AmeriCorps State and national, Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA,